December 20, 2005

1	DAVID ROGER
2	District Attorney State Bar No. 002781 By: KIMBERLY A. PHILLIPS
3	Deputy District Attorney State Bar No. 008609
4	CIVIL DIVISION 500 South Grand Central Pkwy.
5	P. O. Box 552215 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2215
6	(702) 455-4761 Fax (702) 382-5178
7	e-mail: DA-Bankr@co.clark.nv.us Attorneys for
8	Clark County District Attorney's Office
9	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
10	EASTERN DIVISION
11	In re) BK-04-23498
12	DAVID CARAVONA) Chapter 7
13	Debtor.) Judge Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarren
14	
15	OBJECTION AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTION BY THE CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO DEBTOR'S MOTION
16	TO REOPEN BANKRUPTCY CASE
17	COMES NOW the Clark County District Attorney's Office (the "District Attorney"),
18	by its attorney, DAVID ROGER, through KIMBERLY PHILLIPS, Deputy District
19	Attorney, and hereby objects to David R. Caranova's (the "Debtor") motion to reopen his
20	bankruptcy case in order to avoid prosecution. As is more fully set forth below, the Debtor
21	has misstated certain facts supporting his motion; as correctly stated, the Debtor has failed to
22	set forth sufficient cause to reopen his bankruptcy case as required by Section 350(b) of the
23	Bankruptcy Code.
24	I.
25	INTRODUCTION
26	1. The Debtor seeks to reopen his bankruptcy case in order "to afford him relief
	from prosecution." (Motion to Reopen at 1). However, in order to avoid extradition to the
	State of Nevada for criminal prosecution, the Debtor agreed to and subsequently paid full
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restitution out of his post-petition assets to the Clark County District Attorney's office for his pre-petition criminal acts committed in Clark County, Nevada. As a result, there are currently no criminal charges pending against the Debtor in Clark County, Nevada. The Debtor has failed to state a ripened claim for the relief sought.

II.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 2. Nearly two months prior to the Debtor's filing bankruptcy¹, the Clark County District Attorney's Office received a Bad Check/Marker Complaint from the Sunset Station Casino (the "Station Casinos"), a hotel and casino located within Clark County's jurisdiction. The August 23, 2004, complaint alleged that the Debtor had passed five (5) bad checks at the Station Casinos during the month of November 2003 (Exhibit A).
- 3. Nevada Revised Statute 205.130(1)(e) provides that if a debtor passes a bad check, or series of bad checks, to obtain "credit extended by any licensed gaming establishment," during a period of ninety days, and the aggregate amount is \$250 or more, the crime is a class D felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than four years. (NRS § 193.130). In addition to any other penalty, the court *shall* order the person to pay restitution. (NRS § 205.130(1)(e)). (Emphasis added). (Exhibits B and C).
- 4, Still prior to the debtor's filing of a bankruptcy petition, on September 1, 2004, the District Attorney sent a Notice of Bad Check(s) to the Debtor's home address, 7192 Parma Park Boulevard, Parma, Ohio, 44130 advising the Debtor that acceptance into the Clark County's Bad Check Division Program was an alternative to immediate prosecution. (NRS § 205.466).
- 5. On September 13, 2004, the District Attorney sent another letter to the Debtor stating that criminal charges were being processed against him and that he should make restitution if he wished to participate in Nevada's Deferred Prosecution Program. (NRS § 205.466).

Debtor filed bankruptcy petition on October 21, 2004.

November 2, 2004, to the Clark County District Attorney's office advising that his client, the

Debtor, had filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy relief. (Exhibit D).

Debtor's counsel, Mr. Robert J. Berk, sent written correspondence dated

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- The Clark County District Attorney's office responded to Debtor's counsel by 8. written correspondence dated November 2, 2004 advising that the filing of a bankruptcy petition would not preclude the District Attorney's office from continuing with the criminal case against the Debtor for his alleged criminal acts. However, the Clark County District Attorney also informed the Debtor's attorney that it did not intend to utilize the restitution program to force collection from an individual who has obtained a stay of collection through filing bankruptcy. (Exhibit E).
- On November 23, 2004, the Clark County District Attorney filed a Criminal 9. Complaint in Justice Court, Henderson Township, against the Debtor (case number 04FH2890X) alleging 5 counts of drawing and passing a check without sufficient funds in debtor's bank account with intent to defraud (Felony - NRS 205.130, 205.132). An arrest warrant for the Debtor was subsequently issued.
- On December 3, 2004, the Clark County District Attorney's office sent another 10. letter to Debtor's counsel, advising that a Criminal Complaint and warrant for arrest had been issued against the Debtor. (Exhibit F).
- Debtor now seeks to reopen his case because the arrest warrant mentioned 11. above was acted upon on September 19, 2005. Later that day, at approximately 1:45 p.m., the Parma Heights Police Department in Ohio telephoned the Clark County District Attorney's office to advise that the Debtor was in their custody, to confirm Clark County's arrest warrant, criminal charges and confirm the extradition hold. The Clark County District Attorney's office confirmed the arrest warrant and the decision to have the Debtor extradited to Clark County for arraignment and trial for the charges described above.

	12.	At approximately 3:01 p.m., after learning of the District Attorney's decision
to extra	adite a	nd commence further criminal proceedings, the Debtor, through the Parma
Height	s Polic	e Department, contacted the District Attorney's office and offered to post cash
bail wi	ith the	local police department in Parma and have it transferred to the Clark County
Distric	t Attor	ney's office in full restitution of his alleged crimes.
	13.	The District Attorney's office accepted the cash bail transfer as full restitution
the De	btor w	as released, the arrest warrant quashed, and the criminal charges filed against

- n, the Debtor in Clark County, Nevada, were dismissed on October 31, 2005.
- The Debtor now seeks to circumvent the criminal justice system by asking this court to reopen his bankruptcy case in order to enjoin the Clark County District Attorney's Office from further prosecuting him, although all charges against the Debtor have been

III.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

The Clark County District Attorney's office was not prohibited from filing a Criminal Complaint against the Debtor alleging felony bad check violations committed in November 2003. By its terms, the automatic stay does not apply to a criminal prosecution. As set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 362(b)(1):

> The filing of a petition ... does not operate as a stayunder section (a) of this section, of the commencement or continuation of a criminal action or proceeding against the debtor[.] (Emphasis added).

Section 524(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code provides the discharge injunction against "the commencement or continuation of an action, the employment of process, or an act, to collect, recover or offset any such debt as a personal liability of the debtor...." However, §523(a)(7) exempts from the §524 discharge any debt "to the extent such debt is for a fine, penalty, or forfeiture payable to and for the benefit of a governmental unit, and is not compensation for actual pecuniary loss...."

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Although restitution does resemble a judgment "for the benefit of" the victim, the context in which it is imposed undermines that conclusion. The victim has no control over the amount of restitution awarded or over the decision to award restitution. Moreover, the decision to impose restitution generally does not turn on the victim's injury, but on the penal goals of the State and the situation of the defendant.... Because Criminal proceedings focus on the State's interests in rehabilitation and punishment, rather than the victim's desire for compensation, we conclude that restitution imposed in such proceedings operate "for the benefit" of the State. Similarly, they are not assessed "for ... compensation" of the victim.

Id. at 52-53.

- 18. Even when restitution is imposed post-discharge, the action does not violate the §524 discharge injunction. See <u>In re McMullen</u>, 189 B.R. 402, 408 (Bankr.E.D.Mich. 1995) (restitution is owed to the state and "serves the state's interest in deterring crime and in punishing and rehabilitating criminals" so it is logical that prosecutor is free to seek restitution notwithstanding the discharge injunction).
- 19. As result of the Criminal Complaint filed against the Debtor, an arrest warrant was subsequently issued and acted upon. The Clark County District Attorney sought to extradite the Debtor to Clark County, Nevada. However, rather than return to Clark County and assert any legal defenses to the criminal charges alleged against him, the Debtor elected to post a cash bail bond for full restitution and fees in order to avoid extradition and prosecution.
- 20. The Debtor now argues that the Clark County District Attorney's Office used its police powers to collect a pre-petition obligation on behalf of a private creditor (i.e., Station Casinos). (Motion to Reopen at 2). However, Station Casinos has no control whatsoever over the criminal proceedings initiated by the State of Nevada. The Debtor has

failed to allege any facts showing that Station Casinos has control over the restitution payments which could cause them to be something other than penal in nature.

- 21. Moreover, the Clark County District Attorney's office was ready, willing and able to extradite the Debtor so that he could face the criminal charges filed against him in the State of Nevada. The sanctions under the Nevada statute are penal and rehabilitative in nature, designed to send the message that the State will not tolerate the victimization of individuals and businesses who accept checks that are returned for insufficient funds. The Nevada legislature has expressly determined the policy and procedure for punishing those who pass bad checks within the state. The State's system of restitution is but one part of the criminal prosecution process. In this case, the District Attorney was prepared to go forward with extradition and prosecution with the goal of conviction on fraud charges and imprisonment as State law prescribes. See NRS §205.130; NRS §205.132; NRS §193.130.
- 22. "The Supreme Court has 'recognized that the States' interest in administering their criminal justice systems free from federal interference is one of the most powerful considerations that should influence a court considering equitable types of relief." In re

 Byrd, 256 B.R. 246, 251 (Bankr.E.D.N.C. 2000) citing Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37, 44-45, 92 S.Ct 746, 750-51 (1971).
- 23. As a result of the Debtor's decision to avoid extradition and further criminal proceedings, the criminal complaint filed against the Debtor in Clark County, Nevada was dismissed. Therefore, the relief requested in Debtor's motion to reopen his bankruptcy case in order to enjoin Clark County's criminal prosecution of the Debtor is not warranted.

IV.

CONCLUSION

The Clark County District Attorney's Office prays this Court enter an Order denying David Caravona's Motion to Reopen his bankruptcy case. The debtor has failed to state a

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	valid legal basis for reopening his bankruptcy case. As a result of the Debtor's own
	decision, there are no legal charges pending against the debtor in Clark County, Nevada.
1	DATED this 20 day of December, 2005.
2	DAVID ROGER DISTRICT ATTORNEY
3	DISTRACT ATTORIVET
4	BY SULL BY SULLIPS
5	Deputy District Attorney State Bar No. 008609
6	500 South Grand Central Pkwy. P. O. Box 552215
7	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2215 Attorney for Clark County
8	District Attorney's Office
9	
10	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
11	I hereby certify that on the day of December, 2005, I deposited in the United
12	States mail, postage prepaid, at Las Vegas, Nevada, enclosed in a sealed envelope, a copy of
13	the above and foregoing Objection and Memorandum in Support of Objection by the
14	Clark County District Attorney's Office to Debtor's Motion to Re-Open Bankruptcy
15	Case addressed as follows:
16	Robert J. Berk, Co., LPA Suite 1425
17	75 Public Square Building Cleveland, OH 44113
18	Attorney for Debtor
19	
20	
21	Lein Burly
22	An Employee of the Clark County District Attorney's Office – Civil Division
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December 20, 2005



Bad Check/Marker Complaint Form Clark County District Attorney

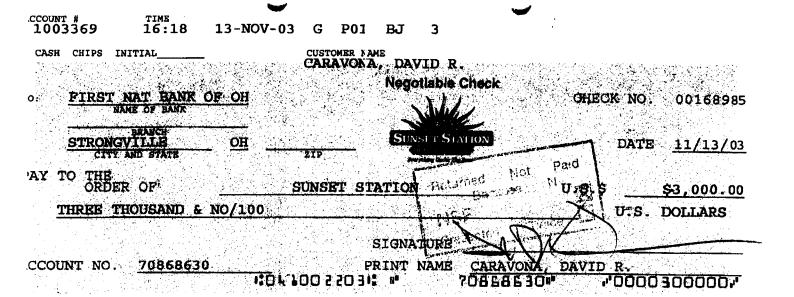
Bad Check Diversion Unit 200 S. Third Street, 5th Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 455-2959 Fax (702) 455-6410

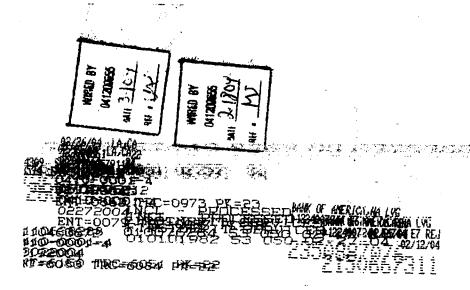
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CHERYL COOPER Contact E-mail Address:					702-547-770		/ / / / 2-5	47-7836
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I (WE) hereby certify that all information in this complair t is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Cheryl	Cooper	Print Name CHERYL COOPER:	Date: 5/23/04
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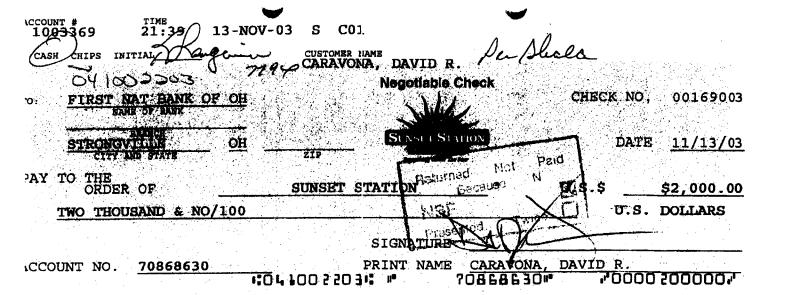


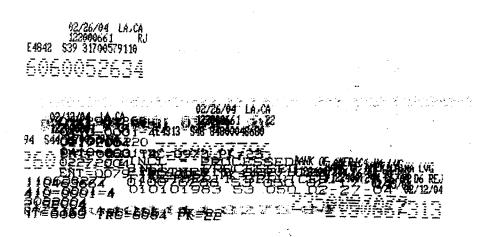


Bad Check/Marker Complaint Form

Clark County District Attorney
Bad Check Diversion Unit
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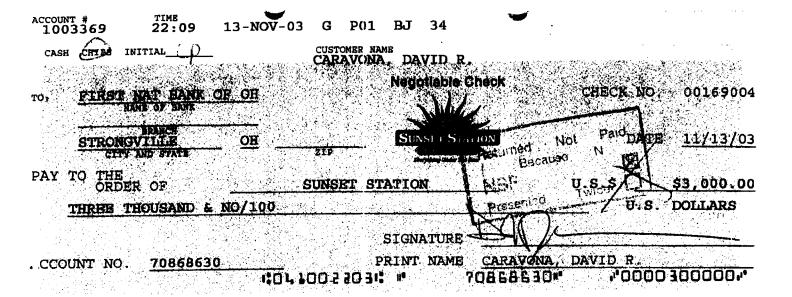


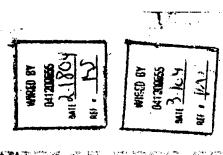




Bad Check/Marker Complaint Form Clark County District Attorney Bad Check Diversion Unit 200 S. Third Street, 5th Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 455-2959 Fax (702) 455-6410

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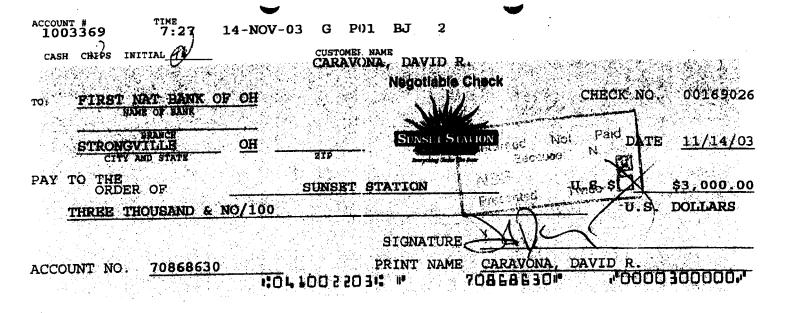


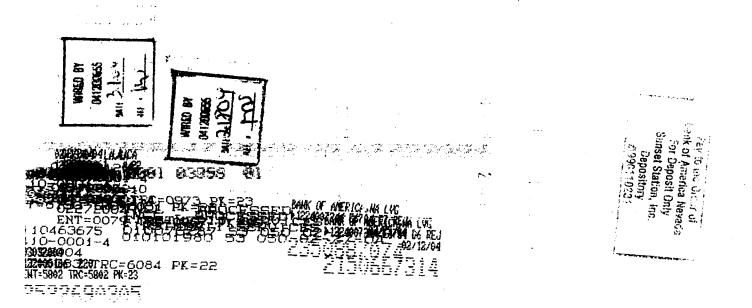




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Bad Check/Marker Complaint Form

Clark County District Attorney

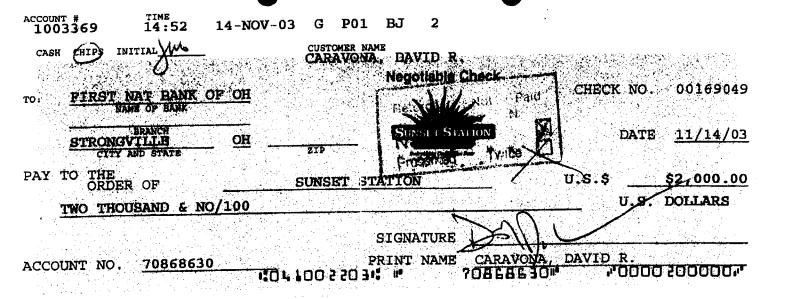
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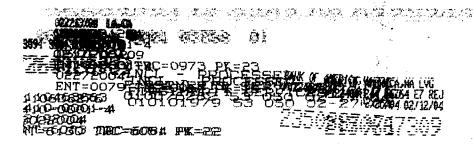
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fictim or Business Name: UNSET STATION HOTEUCASING failing Address:		ank of		Orporate Name (I Station Casinos, In	if different):		- State	Land Carlotte Section 1997
301 W. SUNSET RD. ity: IENDERSON Contact Name (please print) HERYL COOPER					State: NV Phone #: 702-547-7702		Zip 89014 Fax #: 702-54	7-7836
Contact E-mail Address: Cheryl.cooper@stationcasinos.com I (WE) hereby authorize the endered by or on behalf of the draw egarding the drawer of this check to I (WE) hereby certify that Signature:	ver of the ched o which we ma	ck presented fo By be entitled.	er collection	by this request and	d to obtain any bar	nk or financia	egotiable i Il institutio	nstrument

Complaint must be signed and dated when submitted





ray to the Order of Bank of America Never For Deposit Only Sunset Station, Inc. Depository NRS 205.130 Issuance of check or draft without sufficient money or credit: Penalties.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsections 2 and 3, a person who willfully, with an intent to defraud, draws or passes a check or draft to obtain:

(a) Money;

(b) Delivery of other valuable property;

(c) Services;

(d) The use of property; or

(e) Credit extended by any licensed gaming establishment,

drawn upon any real or fictitious person, bank, firm, partnership, corporation or depositary, when the person has insufficient money, property or credit with the drawee of the instrument to pay it in full upon its presentation, is guilty of a misdemeanor. If that instrument, or a series of instruments passed in the State during a period of 90 days, is in the amount of \$250 or more, the person is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order the person to pay restitution.

2. A person who was previously convicted three times of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this section, or of an offence of a similar nature, in this State or any other state or in a federal invisidation, who violates this section is guilty of a similar nature.

offense of a similar nature, in this State or any other state, or in a federal jurisdiction, who violates this section is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order

the person to pay restitution.

3. A person who willfully issues any check or draft for the payment of wages in excess of \$250, when the person knows he has insufficient money or credit with the drawee of the instrument to pay the instrument in full upon presentation is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

4. For the purposes of this section, "credit" means an arrangement or understanding with a person, firm, corporation,

bank or depositary for the payment of a check or other instrument.

[1911 C&P § 407; A 1917, 10; 1925, 346; 1927, 233; 1929, 93; 1941, 308; 1955, 151]—(NRS A 1960, 380; 1961, 58, 309; 1963, 495; 1967, 495; 1969, 1518; 1971, 1336; 1973, 1453; 1975, 755; 1979, 1011; 1983, 856; 1989, 1432; 1995, 1217)

NRS 193.130 Categories and punishment of felonies.

- 1. Except when a person is convicted of a category A felony, and except as otherwise provided by specific statute, a person convicted of a felony shall be sentenced to a minimum term and a maximum term of imprisonment which must be within the limits prescribed by the applicable statute, unless the statute in force at the time of commission of the felony prescribed a different penalty. The minimum term of imprisonment that may be imposed must not exceed 40 percent of the maximum term imposed.

2. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, for each felony committed on or after July 1, 1995:(a) A category A felony is a felony for which a sentence of death or imprisonment in the state prison for life with or without the possibility of parole may be imposed, as provided by specific statute.

- (b) A category B felony is a felony for which the minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison that may be imposed is not less than 1 year and the maximum term of imprisonment that may be imposed is not more than 20 years, as provided by specific statute.
- (c) A category C felony is a felony for which a court shall sentence a convicted person to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 5 years. In addition to any other penalty, the court may impose a fine of not more than \$10,000, unless a greater fine is authorized or required by statute.
- (d) A category D felony is a felony for which a court shall sentence a convicted person to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 4 years. In addition to any other penalty, the court may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000, unless a greater fine is authorized or required by statute.
- the court may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000, unless a greater fine is authorized or required by statute.

 (e) A category E felony is a felony for which a court shall sentence a convicted person to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 4 years. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 176A.100, upon sentencing a person who is found guilty of a category E felony, the court shall suspend the execution of the sentence and grant probation to the person upon such conditions as the court deems appropriate. Such conditions of probation may include, but are not limited to, requiring the person to serve a term of confinement of not more than 1 year in the county jail. In addition to any other penalty, the court may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000, unless a greater penalty is authorized or required by statute.

 [1911 C&P § 18; RL § 6283; NCL § 9967]—(NRS A 1967, 458; 1995, 1167; 1997, 1177; 1999, 1186)

Robert J. Berk Co., L.P. -5 P 2: 34

Attorney at Law
Suite 1425
75 Public Square Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216/241/3880
FAX 216/241/5366

November 2, 2004

Office of the District Attorney Bad Check Diversion Unit 200 South Third Street, 5th Floor Las Vegas, Nv. 89101

Re: David R. Caravona

7192 Parma Park Blvd. Parma, Ohio 44130

Bankruptcy Case: 04-23498

Filed: 10/21/04

United States Bankruptcy Court

Northern District, Ohio

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I represent David R. Caravona with regard to the above-captioned matter.

Enclosed please find a copy of your letter of September 1, 2004, sent to Mr. Caravona.

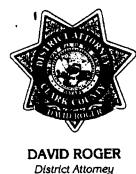
Thereafter, Mr. Caravona attempted to enter into payment arrangements with the casino, made several payments, but was not able to complete repayment of his debt, and he filed a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.

Enclosed please find a copy of the First Meeting Notice of that bankruptcy.

Under federal bankruptcy law believe that his obligation to the Sunset Station Casino will be discharged in this bankruptcy.

Sincerely,

RJB økd



OFFICE OF THE CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY BAD CHECK DIVERSION UNIT

NOVEMBER 2, 2004

ROBERT J BERK, ESQ. 75 PUBLIC SQUARE #1425 CLEVELAND OHIO 44113

RE:

DAVID A CARAVONA

CASE NO(S): 2004-261161 thru 2004-261165

Dear ROBERT J BERK, ESQ.:

I am writing to advise you that the Clark County District Attorney's Office intends to proceed with a criminal case against your client for violation of NRS 205.130, Issuance of Check or Draft Without Sufficient Money or Credit. It is my understanding that DAVID A CARAVONA has filed or intends to file a bankruptcy petition and that he/she/they believe(s) that such action precludes us from instituting or continuing with our criminal case. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

Pursuant to NRS 205.466 et seq., this office has established The Bad Check Diversion Unit which is a program for restitution for persons who have passed a check without sufficient money or credit to pay it in full. Such offenders may avoid prosecution if they choose to avail themselves of the opportunity to pay. However, it is our policy that we do not utilize the restitution program to force collection from an individual who has obtained a stay of collection through filing bankruptcy.

The purpose of my letter is to advise you that you may want to discuss this matter with your client. While we still may negotiate the time for payment of restitution in any case, we do not intend to collect any amount of money from DAVID A CARAVONA at this time, but to proceed with our right to prosecute for what we believe to be a criminal violation of laws of the State of Nevada.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Clark County Courthouse • 200 S Third St • Fifth Floor • Las Vegas NV 89101 (702) 455-2959 • Fax: (702) 455-6410 • TDD: (702) 385-7486

Exhibit E

CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BAD CHECK DIVERSION UNIT

200 SO. THIRD ST., FIFTH FLOOR LAS VEGAS, NV 89101 (702) 455-2959 FAX: (702) 455-6410

COURTESY COPY ONLY

December 3, 2004

ROBERT J. BERK 75 PUBLIC SQUARE BUILDING SUITE 1425 CLEVELAND, OH 44113

REF: DAVID R. CARAVONA CASE NO. 04FH2890X

Dear Mr. Berk:

Due to your client's failure to make restitution arrangements with this office regarding the bad checks he issued, a criminal complaint has been filed and a warrant for his arrest has been issued. He may be arrested at anytime as long as this warrant remains outstanding.

The total amount owed (including fees and penalties) on the above entitled case is \$14,975.00.

If you wish to resolve this matter before he is arrested on this warrant, you may contact the District Attorney's Office Bad Check Diversion Unit at the number above. All restitution must be in the form of a money order or cashier's check only.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Crimina Complaint.

Sincerely,

JAMES J. MILLER DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY